Title: Request the Central Government to strengthen the public distribution system in Kerala.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards reports regarding Central Government''s decision to curtail the targeted public distribution system and the huge protest it evoked in Kerala.

There is a history behind the establishment of the public distribution system and monthly allotment of food grains from the Central pool to Kerala. For the last fifty years, the agriculture sector of Kerala has been shifting from paddy to cash crops. Kerala''s cash crops are helping the Central Government to earn valuable foreign exchange. ... (Interruptions) I think, the average foreign exchange earned by Kerala is higher than that of any of the States. This is the background in which the Central Government agreed to supply food grains, sugar and kerosene through the PDS. This has given a human developmental face to Kerala. Still people are turning from paddy to cash crops.

Now-a-days, the important cash crops of rubber and coconut are facing a serious crisis. There are 36 lakh people involved in the coconut sector and nearly ten lakh in the rubber sector. In the circumstances, when a major section of agriculturists are facing difficulties, the move of the Central Government to curtail the public distribution system is highly objectionable. ... (Interruptions) Unfortunately, the people of Kerala have suffered in the past due to hindrance in the movement of food grains from paddy producing States like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. It will result in drawing out the low and middle income people to market exploitation. So, I request the Government to strengthen the public distribution system in Kerala. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have called Shri N.N. Krishnadas.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, will you please allow me for one minute?

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (PALGHAT): He has called my name.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I have given a notice.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: But your name is not in the list.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : This is a very serious matter.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are only associating yourself with him. You are not to speak more. You have to say, `I associate myself with the item mentioned by Shri Govindan.''

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, this is a separate matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We have evolved a system.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : The coconut crop in Kerala has become the victim of a pest known as mite. It is causing extensive damage to the crop.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Your notice is not there on this subject.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, I have given a notice for the same subject.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Your notice is on the public distribution system in Kerala.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : I know, which notice I have given. I have given a notice on the same subject.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have the list here.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : I can see that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is why I am telling you that you have only to associate yourself.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : But I have given a separate notice. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Krishnadas, I am sorry, your name is not here in the list. How can I allow you?

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, I have given the notice today at 8.30 a.m. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP (KOTTAYAM): Since you have called his name, he should be allowed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Are you associating yourself with that?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): You may please allow him for two minutes. He will finish within two minutes. This is a very important matter. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, you have allowed me. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : I had given a notice yesterday but the hon. Speaker did not call me. I have given a notice today also. ... (Interruptions) This is a fact. My constituency is the most badly affected area of Kerala. The coconut crop has been affected by the mandari disease. ... (Interruptions) You have to give some consideration to me. I have given a notice. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : This is a very serious matter. ... (Interruptions) The coconut crop in Kerala has become the victim of a pest known as mite, causing extensive damage to the crop.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Krishnadas, nothing will go on record now. You please hear me. I am only finding a solution to your problem.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You please hear me and then your problem will be over. You have given a notice for some other item. You will be called when that item comes up. Your name is there on some other item.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, I have given my notice at 8.30 a.m. How can it be that my name is not there in the list?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have already taken too much time.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Will you please sit down?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, I am one of the most obedient Members of this House.

... (Interruptions)

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* Not Recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am on my legs.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, I am one of the most obedient Members in this House. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Will you please hear me? Hon. Speaker has already mentioned that there were 26 names in the list and all the names would be called. But your name is listed against some other item.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let me complete.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : You have called my name. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let me complete, Shri Krishnadas. We are going to sit down and complete it.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Are you standing again? Please sit down. According to the time at which they were received, the names have been mentioned. The whole list is here. So, please remain quiet; I will call the names one by one. Others may quietly wait for their turns.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : You have already called my name and I have also started my submission already. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are a senior Member. When I am on my legs, you will have to hear me completely. Your name is there at serial no.8; twenty six names are there in total and you will get your chance. Now, Shri V.M. Sudheeran. Each Member will take two minutes each and we will complete the list.

... (Interruptions)